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CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

September 26, 1942

Sub-Committee on Health of  
Emergency Medical Service,  
California State Council of Defense,  
Bertram P. Brown, M. D., Chief,  
995 Market Street,  
San Francisco, California.

Dear Sirs:

Your letter of September 25th, relating to "shortage of trained medical aid," has come to hand.

I am sending copies of your letter to the members of the C.M.A. Council with request for suggestions, and in due course will again write you.

In the meantime, may we ask you to send us such information as may be available from the files to which you have access, concerning the districts or communities in California where a shortage of medical personnel is now in evidence, and to what extent?

We all appreciate the increased work on physicians remaining in civilian practice, but they carry these increased burdens as part of their contribution in the existing emergencies.

How would you determine the fitness of medical graduates of foreign countries? (The California Board of Medical Examiners has shown that a considerable number of such foreign M. D.'s present false or misleading statements concerning former training.) . . .

If a grave emergency were to arise, and medical aid was rendered by unlicensed physicians, is it not more than possible that the State Board of Medical Examiners would take no notice or action concerning such violation of the law, looking upon the same as a pardonable technicality?

As stated in your letter, the present and future complications involved in temporary licensure are of a serious nature. It has taken almost a century of effort to bring standards of medical practice in California to their present status. It would be a real detriment to public health interests, if the existing standards were temporarily nullified, with future possibility of permanent influx of a large group of poorly trained physicians.

May I hope to hear from you in regard to the above?

Cordially yours,

PHILIP K. GILMAN, M. D.,  
Chairman, C.M.A. Council.

Without going into details, it may be stated that other correspondence followed; and special study was given to the subject by the C.M.A. Committee on Public Policy and Legislation.

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**Proposals of the "Federation of State Licensing Boards.**—Under date of December 10, 1942, a communication was received from Secretary Walter L. Bierring of the Federation of State Medical Boards, with which was enclosed "proposed legislation to authorize and provide for the temporary admission to practice in your state of physicians and dentists to protect the health of the civilian population during the war emergency period."

Also enclosed was a "statement of principles suggested as a means by which this relocation of physicians and dentists can be done."

The proposed law (Item A) and the statement of principles (Item B) appear elsewhere in this issue. (See page 36.)

In connection with the foregoing, space is also given to two other items bearing on the subject of modification of existing California statutes concerning medical practice. Of these, Item C (on page 37) enumerates some questions which would arise and be worthy of consideration when proposed amendments to the medical practice act are considered.

The comments having the caption Item D (on page 37) deal directly with the provisions outlined in the amendment (Item A), suggested by the Federation.

Because the subject of medical licensure standards is one in which every Doctor of Medicine who is licensed in California has an inherent interest, attention is here called to the above.

Component county societies and members who are interested are requested to communicate their views, on whether California's Medical Practice Act should be amended to provide for temporary licenses, to the Council of the California Medical Association, Doctor Philip K. Gilman, Chairman, 450 Sutter, San Francisco.

#### MEDICAL PUBLICATIONS FOR HOSPITAL STATIONS OF MILITARY CAMPS IN CALIFORNIA

**Medical Libraries have given Generous Cooperation.**—Notices containing requests for medical publications (journals and books) for distribution to hospital stations of military camps in California, have been given editorial and other comment in recent issues of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE. The response thereto was not as large as had been expected, but journals, in considerable number, were received by the three medical libraries of California (Stanford, University of California, Los Angeles County Medical Association, and by the C.M.A. office). In addition, the three medical libraries made available from their shelves, a large number of duplicate volumes and these, with the journals, were shipped c/o Medical Officers in Command, to the hospital stations of many of the rather large number of Army and Air Force camps that are now located in California. Because the Navy stations are closely grouped and adjacent to the larger cities, where good library facilities are available, it was not deemed necessary to forward the publications to the hospital stations of that service.

Of course, the books and journals were not the latest editions or issues. However, since only sparse literature is available at some of the recently organized camps, it was felt that even such was better, than few or no medical publications.

From time to time, as material comes to hand, other shipments will go forward. The Postgraduate Committee has also voted to charge against its budget, the cost of sending CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE to all California camps, and if satisfactory arrangements can be made, to subscribe, in addition, to certain other publications to be sent to some of the hospital stations.

**Military Colleagues are Appreciative.**—Colleagues in the military service have expressed their appreciation of the effort to supply medical literature to their camps. Two copies of reply letters received are appended:

\_\_\_\_\_  
TRAINING DETACHMENT  
OFFICE OF THE SURGEON  
\_\_\_\_\_, California

January 3, 1943.

SUBJECT: *Receipt of Medical Literature.*  
To: *California Medical Association.*

1. This office is gratefully in receipt of the medical shipment, reference No. 17, dated December 22, 1942, sent by the C.M.A. Postgraduate Committee.

2. I cannot overemphasize our appreciation of the medical literature you have forwarded this office. The assistant surgeons and I, as well as some of the enlisted men have already begun poring over their contents. All I can say is that this gesture is very fine. . . .

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_,  
Captain, Medical Corps,  
Surgeon.

STATION HOSPITAL  
\_\_\_\_\_, California

January 4, 1943.

To: *California Medical Association.*

Gentlemen:

On behalf of the Medical Officers stationed at this hospital, I wish to extend to you our sincere appreciation of your effort to develop the medical libraries in the station hospitals. A packet of medical journals has just been received by us and our thanks are extended to you.

Please be assured that your efforts in our behalf are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_,  
Major, M.C.,  
Surgeon.

### SAVE YOUR HEALTH AND YOUR DOCTOR'S TIME

**Excellent Leaflet of the Medical Society of the County of Westchester, New York.**—Under the caption, "Save Your Health and Your Doctor's Time," physicians of White Plains and other communities in the County of Westchester, New York, have distributed to their patients a small and interesting leaflet, of size to fit into envelopes with statements or other correspondence.

As the months go by, more and more articles are appearing in the lay press, in which the supposed "doctor shortage" is being emphasized—a topic that provides a good slogan for certain proponents of governmental medical care plans who are using it to carry on an educational propaganda in favor of their schemes and obessions.

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**Implications in the Changing Practice.**—By now, it is of course evident to all that, to transfer within the short space of a single year, more than 40,000 Doctors of Medicine from civilian practice into the ranks of the Armed Forces

(with additional accretions to be made in 1943, until, as stated on another page, the total will swell to 52,400 physicians in military service), could not do otherwise than make for some dislocations in the type of service now available to civilians.

On the other hand, the fact that it has been possible to take so massive a number of physicians from civil practice, without extensive and widespread hardships in medical service being evident, is in itself one of the best refutations to those who, during the last decade, have been shouting themselves hoarse concerning "inadequate medical care."

For the information of C.M.A. members, it may be stated that reports are now being received from component county units of the California Medical Association concerning medical needs in their respective communities, the replies indicating, to date, that citizens of California are still receiving good medical care. More, concerning this, in a later issue.

True it is that, almost everywhere, members of the medical profession are working harder and longer than in former years, but the burden in most places has not been greater than the practicing physicians, themselves, have been willing to bear.

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**Merit of the Westchester Educational Leaflet.**—Which brings us back to the educational leaflet that has been distributed by the physicians of Westchester County. Our New York colleagues have appreciated early that, under existing circumstances, medical service is a two-way proposition, requiring not only willingness on the part of the physicians to give good service, but coöperation on the part of citizens, to aid in the conservation of the health and time of their medical advisors.

The leaflet tells its story in simple and appealing manner. It is given space below, because of its suggestive value. It is possible that some of the component county societies in California may wish to print similar statements, and to furnish supplies to their members for distribution to patients. The Westchester leaflet follows:

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#### Save Your Health and Your Doctor's Time

*Rationed Gas, Rationed Tires, Rationed Doctors!*

A large proportion of Westchester's physicians have entered military service. Many more are preparing to go. Those left behind, with a few exceptions, are beyond military age, or have some physical disability which has disqualified them for active military duty. Yet these "home front" physicians are being required to carry a greatly increasing burden of work.

You and your family can help both to lighten this burden and to make sure that everyone will get the utmost benefit and safety from the limited medical service that will be available. Here's how:

1. Instead of asking the doctor to come to your home, go to his office when you can.